

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at **6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 2012** in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Jacobs and Banks. Also present were: Mayor Sydney Schulman, Councilor Rivers, Chief Paul Hammick – Bloomfield Police Department and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

POLICE

The status of the Police Department is on track with the FY 2012/2013 operating budget thus far. The department did not have a very active summer. The overtime funds in the Patrol Division are trending about \$22,000 biweekly. The department is short on manpower, being down by 2 officers. However, expending about 15% - 18% aligned with budget funds in each division.

The Fall 2012 Citizens Police Academy will begin its 1st class on September 18, 2012. There are currently 16 participants registered for the class.

During the summer, the department sponsored 5 children to the Fidelco Summer Camp Program, beginning July 6th, 2012.

Renovations are nearly completed at the Police Department consisting of minor painting, carpeting, etc.

Crime Report

Crime statistics are down 5%. However, 4% increased occurred in August, 2012 including larceny at Burlington Coat Factory and burglaries in various areas in town. However, officer initiated activity has continue to be a positive response in the community. Approximately, 1800 contacts have occurred since the inception of this new concept in community policing.

Personnel Updates

Chief Hammick reported that there were 300 applicants in the latest recruitment process for the department. Approximately, 144 applicants passed the written exam and were invited to attend an Open House at the Police Department. The Open House was very successful containing a briefing on Human Resources information regarding insurance, benefits and pay scale.

Chief Hammick also reported that Oral Board interviews are currently being held with a Supervisor, Patrol Officer and Community Liaison. A completed list will be complied of qualified applicants to move to the next round of background investigation.

Councilor Washington inquired about the hiring diversity of applicants to become police officers. Chief Hammick stated that notifications about hiring were sent to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Hartford Courant, Local Colleges and Universities and Women Police organizations.

The department ordered 3 Administrative Fleet vehicles (1 – Ford Explorer and 2 – Ford Taurus), 1 Chevy Tahoe as a supervisor vehicle equipped with additional equipment for Mobile Emergency Response Unit.

Officer related injuries are down as well this year, only 11 injuries reported. The morale in the department maintains to be very positive.

The Bike Patrols will continue for another few weeks through the month of September, 2012.

Councilor Washington inquired about minority trainers and the overall grooming process to promote ranks. Chief Hammick indicated that trainers cannot be chosen based on race, however supervisory courses are available to improve interviewing skills and supervision of subordinates, etc. are offered for any interested officers.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Deputy Mayor inquired about a concern regarding an issue with speeding on Prospect Street. He would like further information regarding the possible implementation of stop signs or the most effectiveness method to resolve the problem. Chief Hammick will follow up with possible solutions.

Councilor Washington addressed a resident complaint from Mr. James McGovern residing at 25 Diana Drive. Mr. McGovern wrote a letter of correspondence regarding his dissatisfaction with the handling of investigations with citizen police complaints. Chief Hammick followed up with a correspondence addressing these concerns and reiterating the importance of building trust between the community and the police department. Chief Hammick informed the committee of the formal process to report complaints:

- In person at the P.D.,
- Via telephone report to the P.D.
- Report to the Town Manager's or Human Resources Office

All complaints are reviewed by the Chief and an Internal Affairs investigator.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Banks and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

